

# Greenkeepers Club of New England

# NEWSLETTER

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*"It is well for a man to respect his own vocation whatever it is, and to think himself bound to uphold it, and to claim for it the respect it deserves."*

*Charles Dickens.*

This newsletter comes to you with one purpose, to serve you. It aims to help you, to give you the viewpoints of various men in this field of greenkeeping. All of the articles in this issue have been written by members of the Board of Directors of your club, men who are earnestly trying to make this club a vital force, serving its members well. Do you appreciate all that your Directors are doing for your club?

This then is your newsletter. It is on trial. Help it to help others. Your suggestions and articles for it are desired.

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The May meeting held at the Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass. gave all who attended a fine opportunity to inspect the new demonstration plots which were planted last Fall in conjunction with the Green Section. Experiments are being carried on with various kinds of bent, fertilizer experiments, arsenate of lead, and height of cut. These plots are for you, and you should plan to inspect them often. The experiments are there under New England conditions for you to see at any time, and Frank Wilson will be glad to tell you about them when you drop around!

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Plan to take in the June meeting, at Bear Hill Country Club, Wakefield, Mass. Let's get together!

## THE MAINTENANCE OF STOLON GREENS

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Whether a putting green has been developed from seed or stolons, the quality of the turf depends on drainage, location, and the quality of the soil. It is a well known fact that all greens on a golf course do not produce the same results with the same treatments. Experience teaches us that each green is a problem in itself, but the following plan of maintenance has been generally followed on the stolon greens at the Unicorn Country Club.

Nine of our greens were planted with stolons in the Fall of 1923 and were opened for play in June 1924. The second nine were planted in the summer of 1924 and opened for play the following spring.

As soon as the frost is out of the ground and the greens are dry enough, we roll them with an ordinary putting green roller. Our first top dressing is put on as soon as the grass begins to make new growth. This top dressing consists of one cubic yard of compost to which is added 25 pounds of ammonium sulphate and 50 pounds of 6-8-2 fertilizer for each 5000 square feet of green. This is followed up by a similar top dressing three weeks later, omitting the 6-8-2 fertilizer.

During the playing season, we top dress on the average of once in five weeks. This, however, is determined by weather conditions. With the last top dressing in the Fall, 100 pounds of bone meal is applied to each green.

As a preventive against brown patch, we have used several fungicides over a period of five years. During the last two years we have had very good results by treating with bichloride of mercury in April and May, three ounces to each thousand square feet of green, and by using a chlorophenol mercury preparation during the brown patch season.

The results obtained were especially encouraging during the season of 1928 which was considered to be one of the worst this district has experienced. For the last two seasons, we have watered our greens early in the morning. This we believe has also helped to eliminate brown patch troubles. A treatment of bichloride of mercury solution in the Fall has also seemed to check snow-mold.

The first three seasons, we did not cut our greens as short as the regular putting green, as we believe it gave them a better chance to make a good foundation. Since then we have lowered our mowers and the last two seasons have been cutting them to the desired putting green closeness. We cut our greens daily and at times during the height of the growing season, find it necessary to cut them twice a day.

Very little weeding has been necessary on these greens as the thickness of the turf prevents weeds from growing. We have, however, had some chickweed in several of our greens. By treating with arsenate of lead, most of this was eliminated in one season. Our trouble with weeds undoubtedly was mostly due to green top dressing which we used during the first two seasons.

We have a nursery of the same strain of stolons as used on the putting greens. This we feel is very necessary in order to repair quickly any damage and also keep the greens of uniform texture and color.

We believe that the care of seeded and stolon greens is very nearly identical after the first two years. During this time, stolon greens require more frequent and heavier applications of top dressing than do seeded greens.

JAMES McCORMACK

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## BRAEBURN VELVET

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From my experience I believe that velvet bent grows best on peaty soil. The eleventh and seventeenth at Braeburn, nearly solid velvet bent, have soil which is peat mixed with sandy loam. These two and nine or ten others were seeded at the same time with South German mixed bent, and they are the only two where the velvet bent has crowded out all of the other bents.

In caring for velvet bent greens, it is necessary to go slowly in the Spring; if you try to force them in the Spring and get cold rainy weather the latter part of April, they will go back.

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I get good results from a dressing of loam in the Spring, and after that about six or seven pounds of sulphate of ammonia mixed with four or five wheelbarrows of loam every two or three weeks until October. What I consider the best dressing of all is compost made from equal parts of loam and horse manure, piled up for two years and turned over several times. A dressing of this applied in May and another in July not only acts as a fertilizer, but it holds the moisture around the roots of the grass in the hot weather, and saves a lot of watering.

I have a strong feeling that more than seventy-five per cent of the present day diseases on putting greens are caused by over fertilizing and over watering.

JOHN SHANAHAN

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#### WINCHESTER BENT

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At Winchester we have four different kinds of bent. Five years ago I got some stolons from Rhode Island which were supposed to be Rhode Island bent, but I proved them to be Seaside Bent. One year later I got some which were supposed to be the Washington strain. I planted four greens with this strain, and felt I had greens second best to none in the country, but later this strain gave me all kinds of trouble, being subject to brown-patch and snow mold. In order to keep them from looking like the map of the world I had to top dress them every week!

Later on I was able to get the real Washington bent, and also some Metropolitan, and these two I am glad to write about, as I am having good results with them, and they make good putting greens. They do not require the care the other strain does.

In taking care of my bent greens, I mow them every day, using the well-known roller type of putting green mower, set to cut as closely as possible. I top dress them six or seven times during the growing season, using a dressing consisting of two-thirds screened top

soil and one-third sharp sand, and containing ten to twenty pounds of sulphate of ammonia and fifty pounds of poultry manure per green, the whole dressing being well mixed first.

When planting stolons into nursery stock I believe in broadcasting the stolons as when planting a green. By raking with an iron rake, and then cutting with a high wheel lawn mower with grass catcher attached, you can easily have your stolons all ready for planting, thereby avoiding the necessity of pulling the matted stolons apart and chopping the long runners, thus saving much time. I prepare the ground as I would for seed, covering it as evenly as possible with stolons, taking care not to get them in bunches, as they would heat when watered. I then cover with one quarter inch of loam, and keep ground moist until well started.

THOMAS FAHEY

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#### CHANGING FESCUE GREENS TO BENT

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The process of changing fescue bent greens to seeded bent greens is slow and tedious, and for the first two years it seems as if little had been accomplished. The success of the year's work depends to a great extent on what luck you have with the weather, as a cold wet period may cause complete failure.

At the start the most important item to be considered is the seed. Buy the best seed you can obtain and have it tested for purity and vitality. Buy if possible from a seed firm that obtains its seed from the same source each year.

The first and second years seed both Spring and Fall, either scratching the greens both ways with sharp-toothed rakes, or using some kind of a cut-in seeder. If the first method is used, sow the seed directly onto the grass as evenly as possible, top dress lightly with a sandy top dressing, and rub it into the green thoroughly; water the green well without flooding it. Use about one pound of seed per thousand square feet

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of green surface. At the beginning of the third year the bent will begin to show, and if South German mixed bent has been used, small patches of velvet bent the size of a silver dollar will be scattered over the greens. These patches grow in size from year to year, but slowly. After the second year sow only in the Fall, preferably in September, mixing the seed evenly through the compost, or better still using a cut-in seeder.

A nursery of bent sod helps materially in that winter killed patches can be sodded and chick weed plugged out with bent.

At the end of the fifth year your green should be nearly all bent.

FRANK H. WILSON, JR.

"LET THIS BE A WORLD OF  
"FRIENDS"

HUBBARD

John Shanahan is spending his extra time this year looking after landscape work, cleaning and beautifying around Braeburn. Most of us could spend some time along this line!

Secretary Mitchell is planning to strip his eleventh green at Kernwood this year and resod with pure Kernwood velvet bent. Read the story of Kernwood Bent in the June "Newsletter."

Tom Galvin has demonstrated how top dressings of sand will help dry wet areas on several approaches this Spring. Tom also enlarged several tees last Fall. Rhode Island is in fine shape this Spring!

Mike O'Grady is working hard at New Bedford carting away tons of rocks from the site of his new ninth fairway.

Ernest Lord has started a fine nursery of South German mixed bent at Cohasse, thirty by a hundred feet. Have you a good nursery?

John Latvis expects to be busy this Summer building two new greens.

How about visiting your fellow member who is located near you?

## SOAP FOR BALL WASHERS

The following information is given by a manager and owner of a large laundry. To dissolve in cold water to make suds and to rinse also, a low teter soap is needed, such as an olive oil soap of low teter strength. For a builder, to remove the dirt, and to prevent "killing off" of the soap, "Oakite" is very good. Hence a very good soap for use in all ball washers consists of half an olive oil soap of low teter strength and half Oakite, mixed thoroughly.

I have used such a mixture all this year to date, and have found it better than any others I have tried. This soap does not remove the paint from the balls but does clean well, and also lasts well in the washers.

GUY C. WEST

## POULTRY MANURE AT WOODLAND

Several years ago we started using pulverized poultry dressing at Woodland and have had such success with it that we now depend in great measure on this one product for our greens.

We use this poultry manure mixed with loam and sand—2 parts poultry, 4 parts loam, and 2 part sand. We have also discovered that by dressing the greens with clear poultry dressing, using a fertilizer spreader and then brushing it in or matting it, that we can dress the eighteen greens in less than a day. We have used as high as 100 pounds per green. However, the greens should be well watered after the dressing should either method be used. We have taken advantage of many rainy days to put this material on clear, and it makes the ideal way.

It is well in using poultry manure, as with many other things, to mix or use with it a little "gray matter," as a little headwork in knowing when and how to use it helps greatly.

C. E. TREAT